

**PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
(GVPT 100 Sections 0101-0109)**

Spring 2010

Tues and Thurs: 11:00 - 12:15 p.m.

Skinner, 0200

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a general but intensive introduction to the principles of politics and government. There are no prerequisites, but you are expected to be able to write at the college level, make some sense out of the reading, and take adequate notes. The course is challenging, and offers the opportunity to learn about governmental institutions, political behavior, and related issues of politics as they are studied in political science at different levels of analysis. You are therefore expected to work hard and to be actively involved in the learning process. Discussion questions are provided as a means to exploring alternative interpretations and to developing a framework for critical thinking and analyzing political institutions, behavior and events.

Another major aspect of the course is the significant role that ideologies play in politics. A considerable amount of time will be spent on the study of political ideologies as one element in the comprehension and analysis of political thought and action within and among nation states. The final part of the course will focus on politics in the international and global context. Some of the questions that will be generated during the course are:

- Why engage in political thinking?
- Why study political ideologies and how can we understand them?
- How do different perspectives define a democratic political system?
- How do these perspectives view the role of government, the nature of society, and what do they tell us about who should rule?
- What are their assumptions regarding society, authority, equality and change?
- What is the relationship between politics and economics?
- What is the nature of politics among nations?
- Why is globalization such a contested concept?
- What is trans-nationalism?

GENERAL POLICIES

- Every effort will be made to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the spring 2010 semester. This form must be presented no later than March 1, 2010. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has not been reviewed by DSS after March 1, 2010.
- Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness/injury to furnish documentary support to the instructor. I require students to contact me by email or by phone prior to class time to indicate that you have an illness or an injury and will be missing class. You must provide written documentation verifying your illness/injury on the day that you return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests, papers, etc. if you have not provided this documentation. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University's Student Conduct Office.
- By February 15, 2010, students must provide in writing a request for a make up exam if I have indicated a date on this syllabus that you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance (specify) on a specific date. Please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance.
- All students are expected to observe and honor the provisions of the University's Code of Academic Integrity. Academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any abridgement of academic integrity standards will be referred directly to the campus judiciary. Confirmation of such incidents will result in the earning of an "XF" grade for the course, and may result in more severe consequences such as expulsion. The Code of Academic Integrity is available on the web at http://www.inform.umd.edu/campusinfo/department/jpo.code_acinteg.html.
- Please come to class on time and try to avoid leaving before the class ends. Turn down/off cell phones and avoid activities such as internet surfing, e-mailing, reading newspapers, etc.
- **EMERGENCIES:** Be sure to check **Blackboard** and your **e-mail**.

REQUIRED TEXTS

"Introduction to Political Science" by Magstadt, Grigsby/Kegley, Cengage Learning Custom Book ISBN 1111216304

Ball, Terence & Richard Dagger, Ideals and Ideologies, A Reader, 7th Edition bundled with "My Search Lab" New York: Pearson Longman, 2009. ISBN 0-205-70039X

BLACKBOARD: Go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and login to GVPT100 (0101-0109)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading and Discussion

- The class meets in its entirety for two sessions (Tuesdays and Thursdays) of lecture. You are required to attend and participate in discussion groups at different times and in different buildings. Be sure to check for the day, time, building, and room for your discussion section.
- Readings from the texts and **Blackboard** are listed in the course outline under each lecture topic. You need to read prior to coming to class and discussion session. You should come to the sections prepared to discuss the assigned readings AND the questions listed in the outline. **Note that you will not be able to get very much out of the lectures and discussions if you do not keep up on the reading.**

Attendance

- It is in your interest to attend both lecture and discussion session since examinations and other assignments will be based on readings, lecture notes, and discussions. Attendance will be taken in lectures and at the discussions sessions. You will be graded on your participation in discussion sections.
- In addition, you will be asked on various occasions to provide very brief summaries of issues/problems covered in a video and/or lecture.

Examinations

You are required to take three examinations on the scheduled dates. Make-up exams are possible only under very unusual circumstances. See general policies above.
ALL MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE IN ESSAY FORMAT.

Paper

Further details will be provided.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the following breakdown:

First Exam	10%
Second Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Paper	20%
Discussion/participation & Summaries	20%

Grading Method

Grades will not be curved, but based on a straight scale (which includes the plus/minus system)

90 – 100	= A
80 - 89	= B
70 - 79	= C
60 - 69	= D
59 & below	= F

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

PART ONE: THINKING ABOUT POLITICS AND POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE

Week

1. Jan. 26 INTRODUCTION AND COURSE OVERVIEW

Jan. 28 NATURE AND SCOPE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
BASIC CONCEPTS OF POLITICS
Magstadt, Pp 1-28

DISCUSSION “In what ways can individuals benefit from the study of politics?”
“Is political science a science? Why or why not?”

2. Feb. 2 THE MODERN STATE: POWER & SOVEREIGNTY
STATE, NATION & NATIONALISM
Magstadt, Pp 8-12
“The Modern State”, Pp 41-58 **Blackboard**

Feb. 4 THE STATE AND CITIZENSHIP - POLITICAL CULTURE &
POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION
Magstadt, Pp 29-59

DISCUSSION “Why is the state a fundamental concept in the study of politics?”
“How does a state differ from a nation?”
“What is the relationship between how you are socialized and your role as a citizen?”

PART TWO: THEORY, IDEOLOGY AND THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL - POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN SOCIETY

3. Feb. 9 THE NATURE OF POLITICAL THEORY
Magstadt, Pp 85-107

Feb. 11 THE NATURE OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGY AND THE
DEMOCRATIC IDEAL
Ball & Dagger, Pp 1-13

DISCUSSION “Why is it important to study political theory and political ideologies?”
Discuss in relation to the democratic ideal.”

4. Feb. 16 CLASSICAL LIBERALISM AND DEMOCRACY – LEGITIMACY AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY
Magstadt, Pp 108-114
Ball & Dagger, Pp 61-63
John Locke, “Toleration and Government”, Chap. 12 in Ball & Dagger
“Declaration of Independence”, Chap. 14 in Ball & Dagger
- Feb. 18 CLASSICAL LIBERALISM AND CAPITALISM – LIMITING THE ROLE OF THE STATE
Magstadt, Pp 108-114
Adam Smith, excerpts from “The Wealth of Nations”, Chap. 16 in Ball & Dagger
William Sumner, “According to the Fitness of Things”, Chap. 19 in Ball & Dagger

DISCUSSION “To what extent are the concepts of *property, freedom, equality* and *democracy* central to classical liberals such as Locke, Smith & Sumner”

5. Feb. 23 THE RISE OF CONTEMPORARY LIBERALISM - REFORM AND THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL
Magstadt, Pp 114-118
T. H. Green, “Liberalism and Positive Freedom”, Chap. 20 in Ball & Dagger

Feb. 25 **EXAMINATION # 1**

DISCUSSION “Which concept of *freedom* would you prefer to see emphasized in governmental policy -- classical liberalism’s concept of freedom as the freedom when citizens live under a limited government, or the expansive liberty put forward by contemporary liberalism? Discuss in relation to the nature of the capitalist system.”

6. Mar. 2 TRADITIONAL CONSERVATISM
Magstadt, Pp 118-121
Ball & Dagger, Pp 133-134
Edmund Burke, “Society, Reverence and the ‘True Natural Aristocracy’”, Chap. 24 in Ball & Dagger
Michael Oakeshott, “On Being Conservative”, Chap. 28 in Ball & Dagger

- Mar. 4 TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY CONSERVATISM
Magstadt, Pp 121-126
Donald Allen, "Paternalism vs. Democracy: A Libertarian View",
Chap. 21 in Ball & Dagger
Irving Kristol, "The Neoconservative Persuasion", Chap. 30 in Ball &
Dagger
James Dobson, "Standing Strong in a Confused Culture", Chap. 31 in Ball
& Dagger

DISCUSSION "Why did Edmund Burke and other traditional conservatives fear
classical liberalism, and what did they propose instead?"
"How has conservatism changed over the years?"

7. Mar. 9 CONTEMPORARY CONSERVATISM (Cont'd)
Magstadt, Pp 121-126
Donald Allen, "Paternalism vs. Democracy: A Libertarian View",
Chap. 21 in Ball & Dagger
Irving Kristol, "The Neoconservative Persuasion", Chap. 30 in Ball &
Dagger
W. James Antle III, "The Conservative Crack-Up", Chap. 32 in Ball &
Dagger

PART THREE: REVOLUTIONARY & LIBERATION IDEOLOGIES - THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL

- Mar. 11 ROADS TO SOCIALISM
Magstadt, Pp 126-127
Ball & Dagger, Pp 189-190
Robert Owen, "Address to the Inhabitants of New Lanark", Chap. 34 in
Ball & Dagger

DISCUSSION "Discuss examples of policy choices or positions associated with
modern conservative ideology. Do you agree with Antle's arguments?
Why or why not?"

MARCH 15-19 SPRING BREAK

8. Mar. 23 ROADS TO SOCIALISM - MARXISM
Magstadt, Pp 127-132
Karl Marx, "On the Materialist Conception of History", Chap. 36 in Ball
& Dagger
- Mar. 25 COMMUNISM: AN ALTERNATIVE VISION
Magstadt, Pp 127-132
Marx and Engels, "The Communist Manifesto", Chap. 35 in Ball &
Dagger

DISCUSSION “Explain the key elements of socialist ideology.”

“How do you think your view of capitalism would change if you were working in a minimum wage job and expected to do so for much of your adult working life? Would you agree with any or all of Marx’s conclusion?”

9. Mar. 30 REVISIONISM AND THE PRACTICE OF COMMUNISM
Magstadt, Pp 132-137
Ball & Dagger, Pp 217-219
V. I. Lenin, “Revisionism, Imperialism, and Revolution”, Chap. 38 in Ball & Dagger
- Apr. 1 POLITICS OF IDENTITY – A FOCUS ON FEMINISM
Magstadt, Pp 138-148
Mary Wollstonecraft, “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman”, Chap. 51 in Ball & Dagger
Marilyn Frye, “Oppression”, Chapter 55 in Ball & Dagger

DISCUSSION “As an ideology, communism itself is far from dead and buried, but the Soviet version is now a matter of intellectual history, with no present practical application. Discuss.”

10. Apr. 6 POLITICS OF IDENTITY – RACE & NATIONAL LIBERATION
King, “Letter from Birmingham Jail”, Chap. 49 in Ball & Dagger
Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet”, **Blackboard**
Steve Biko, “Black Consciousness and the Quest for a True Humanity”, Chap. 50 in Ball & Dagger
- Apr. 8 **EXAMINATION # 2**

DISCUSSION “Why are liberation ideologies sometimes associated with the ‘politics of identity’ or the ‘politics of difference’?”. Discuss in relation to gender and race.”

PART FOUR: POLITICS OF CONFLICT & COOPERATION: THE INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXT

11. Apr. 13 ANALYZING INTERNATIONAL POLITICS: REALISM & IDEALISM
Magstadt, Pp 159-179
- Apr. 15 CHANGE, DEVELOPMENT & THE INT’L SYSTEM OF STATES
Magstadt, “The Global South in a World of Powers”, Pp 227-262

DISCUSSION “Discuss the realist and idealist perspectives in relation to American foreign policy.”

“What moral principles do you think should inform the development of U.S. foreign policy goals and strategies?”

12. Apr. 20 **VIDEO**

Apr. 22 UNDERSTANDING CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Magstadt, “The Global South in a World of Powers”, Pp 227-262

Dos Santos, “The Structure of Dependence” **Blackboard**

DISCUSSION “If you want to understand international politics today, you must understand historical, political & economic relations between countries. Discuss in relation to modernization theory and dependency theory.”

13. Apr. 27 ISSUES OF GLOBALIZATION

Magstadt, Pp 321-369

Apr. 29 ISSUES OF GLOBALIZATION & TRANSNATIONALISM

Magstadt, Pp 370-401 & Pp 180-187

DISCUSSION “Discuss how globalization has an impact on your daily life.”

14. May 4 ISSUES OF GLOBALIZATION & TRANSNATIONALISM

Magstadt, 263-320 & Pp 187-196

May 6 ISSUES OF GLOBALIZATION & TRANSNATIONALISM

Ball & Dagger, Pp 471-473

Micklethwait & Wooldridge, “The Hidden Promise of Globalization: Liberty Renewed”, Chapter 68 in Ball & Dagger

Patrick Buchanan, “Globalization as Economic Treason”, Chapter 69 in Ball & Dagger

DISCUSSION “Why are some people in favor of globalization and some people opposed to it?”

“Some scholars suggest that the world would be better if all inhabitants thought of themselves as citizens of the world. Discuss in relation to issues and problems facing humanity in the 21st century.”

15. May 11 WRAP-UP

May 13 **FINAL EXAMINATION 8:00 - 10:00 A.M.**